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A BILL

To increase the efficiency of the cavalry of the Confederate States.

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,
That the Secretary of War, upon the application from the General commanding an army in the field with which any regiment, battalion, or company of cavalry is serving, is hereby authorized to cause the quartermaster of the immediate command to take up on his property return the horses ridden by all of the enlisted men of such command, and the horses thus taken up shall at once become the property of the Confederate States, and shall be branded with the letter of the company and number and initials of the regiment to which they belong. Company commanders shall receipt to the quartermaster for the horses thus taken up, and each man shall be allowed to retain for use in the service, the horse that was in his possession when thus taken up; and at any time that the horses of these men become unfit for service, their places shall be supplied by others to be furnished by the Government.

SEC. 2. A board of appraisers shall be appointed by the commanding General of the army to which such regiment, battalion or company is attached, which shall appraise the horses thus taken; and shall also distinguish them as belonging to classes one, two, three and four, according to quality, and the owner of the horse shall make his election to receive at once from the quartermaster of his command, the appraised value of his horse, or a certificate for a horse of the class to which his belongs, to be furnished him by the Government of the Confederate States six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States; which certificate shall be approved by the commander of the brigade to which the man belongs.

SEC. 3. When any enlisted man serving in cavalry becomes dismounted, and is unable to remount himself, upon the certificate of his immediate commander, approved by his brigade and army commander, that he has been a gallant and faithful soldier, and takes proper care of his horse, the quartermaster of his immediate command shall furnish him a Government horse, suitable for cavalry service, for which his company commander shall receipt.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of War shall cause the Quartermaster General to make immediate arrangements for procuring horses, suitable for cavalry, in sufficient numbers to supply, from time to time, the requirements of the service under this law. He shall also adopt such regulations for the recruiting of cavalry horses, the property of the Government, and of cavalrymen who have not the facilities for recruiting their own horses, as he may deem proper.

SEC. 5. When any cavalryman fails to take proper care of his horse, his brigade or other commander shall report the fact to the General commanding the army to which he belongs, who shall assign him to some company from his State or some other arm of the service.

SEC. 6. Any cavalry officer of the Confederate States service, who shall fail to exact from the men under his command proper care of their horses, may, upon certificate of the facts by the brigade inspector, approved by the brigade

and division commanders to which he belongs, be, by order of the commanding General, dropped from the rolls and conscribed into the ranks.

SEC. 7. Any infantry soldier who has been, or may hereafter be conspicuously distinguished for his gallantry in battle, may claim a transfer to such cavalry command belonging to the army to which he belongs, as he may select, and in which he can procure an exchange, and he shall be furnished with a Government horse if he desires it.

SEC. 8. The Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, shall, immediately upon the passage of this act, cause steps to be taken to ensure the importation of a full and regular supply of cavalry arms of the most approved patterns, and of such ammunition therefor as cannot be manufactured in the Confederate States, and also of such amount of cavalry equipments as he may deem necessary.

SEC. 9. The Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, shall cause to be procured and issued to cavalry officers, under such regulations as he may prescribe, the most approved work on cavalry tactics that can be obtained.

SEC. 10. The President shall cause to be established, in connection with the War Department, a bureau of cavalry, which shall, under direction of the Secretary of War, be charged with all matters pertaining to the cavalry service of the Confederate State.

Approved February 23, 1865.

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